

For-Hire Survey Meeting Minutes
Charleston, SC
May 25, 2005

1) Discussion of summary data:

- a. Validation component. How is this conducted?
 - i. *Other trip information is obtained to complete the dockside validation component. To be credible with managers, self-reported data needs to be validated to correct for under-/over-reporting. The same surveyors who interview anglers dockside validate FHS data when they are at the interview sites. In order to ensure that the total number of trips isn't adjusted improperly, the FHS collects information on ALL trips (i.e. when boat is away from slip). However, for these private, non for-hire trips, and additional trips for bait/fuel, FHS only collects the date. Time of validation is recorded and compared against time of trip reported by captain. Any discrepancies are used to establish a rolling one-year cumulative correction factor for under-/over-reporting.*
- b. Question came up as to why number of charter boats in SC is so small compared to list of permittees. NMFS needs to get the directory right before they start using the FHS as official estimates.
 - i. *In June, SC will provide their permit list to the intercept contractor for updating of the SC directory. State will help NMFS and contractor in determining whether any permittees should not be in the FHS directory.*
- c. Would like to see method/target broken out by area rather than vessel type.
- d. Have an introductory slide at the beginning of presentation to define the common acronyms and started to get them comfortable with the terms before presenting the data.

2) Respondent Burden:

- a. Too much overall reporting burden for captains doing both SC logbook and VTRs and For-Hire Survey.
- b. Captains should be able to assign their own user name and password for the web survey. Making web survey more convenient will make them more likely to participate.

3) Timely estimates:

- a. Important to get an explanation of the program to captains. They'll only participate if they see the utility. They need to understand the who/what/where of the program in order to see how it benefits them.
- b. Hold meetings during slow period (February?) to increase attendance at workshops like this one.